

Grapevine

A Minister's Moment

"When you pray, don't pour out a flood of empty words, as the Gentiles do. They think that by saying many words they'll be heard. Don't be like them, because your Father knows what you need before you ask. Pray like this:"

Matthew 6:7-9a



I have had a challenging relationship with prayer over the years. Depending on someone's faith tradition, the approach to prayer can not only be complicated but can also

be challenging. Some traditions talk about praying in the Spirit or tongues; the louder and more demonstrative, the better. Others promote a "name it and claim it" type of prayer. Others speak about prayer as meditation and sitting in silence. I have been told that if my prayer is not answered the way I want then there is something lacking either in the way I pray or my lack of faith or because of unconfessed sin; either mine or my ancestors before me. I have come to believe that this borders on spiritual abuse. For some reason, we like to make prayer complicated

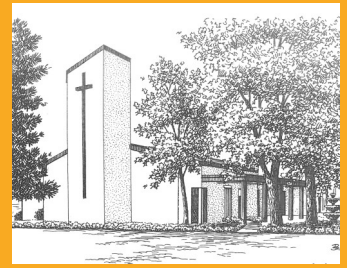
and grueling as if the more painful it is, the better outcome we will have in getting God to grant our wishes.

Jesus actually has quite a bit to say about prayer whether it is about praying in secret, with humility, with simple words, with persistence, and with faith. The scripture above is an introduction to what we have come to know as the Lord's Prayer. Beginning September 6th for 6 weeks, I will be preaching a sermon series on the Lord's Prayer, breaking it down into segments. I will be basing the series on Adam Hamilton's book on the Lord's Prayer. I invite you to get the book and follow along as we seek to understand the wisdom and richness behind this beloved prayer.

Blessings,
Pastor Claire



GOING ON AROUND NORTHKIRK



Session Highlights

With the help of the presbytery, we are working to find an interim pastor to replace our irreplaceable Pastor Claire Schlegel. She will complete her two years with Northkirk at the end of October.

The bell choir is working to raise money to purchase additional bells with two upcoming fundraisers: a Christmas Home Tour and a CalJAS concert. More information will come soon.

The state of California now requires volunteer organizations serving children, the elderly, and disabled individuals to enroll in a new program. This program will provide ongoing (rather than one-time) criminal history screening of (1) all church employees, (2) church officers, and (3) volunteers who work with children, the elderly, or disabled individuals. Once our enrollment is approved, our church employees, officers, and volunteers will go through LiveScan screening again.

Our Fall Craft Fair has been approved for Saturday, October 3rd from 9am-2pm. Our Trunk or Treat has been approved for Wednesday, October 28th from 5-7pm. Please use the sign up sheets at the back of the sanctuary if you would like to participate in either event. Both events are sponsored by the Missions Committee. Please note there is no rental charge for vendors at the Craft Fair.

Joyce Brand

MomCo Fundraisers

Thank you to everyone that participated in the Red Robin Fundraiser for MomCo in August. MomCo raised \$165. The next fundraiser will be at Richie's Diner on September 23rd. Flyers can be found at the back of the sanctuary.

Homecoming Sunday

Join us for Homecoming Sunday on September 13th. A slideshow of vacation photos will be shown during service. Additionally, photos will be taken of individual members and regular attenders for our church photo directory.

Church Photo Directory

We are launching a new church directory that has both printed and online components using Instant Church Directory. This directory will help our church family stay connected and will greatly help our new pastor put names to faces.

To protect your privacy, this directory is completely secure. It is password protected and only accessible to verified members of the congregation who have their emails pre-approved by the church office.

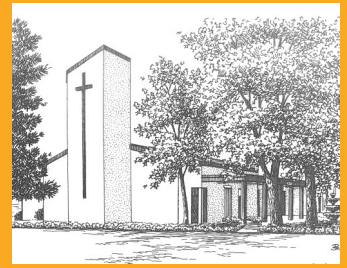
We will begin taking photos of congregation members & regular attenders and updating church records on Homecoming Sunday September 13 and for 3 weeks following. Any questions can be directed to Marilyn Switzer or Dawn Collins.

September Campus Work Day

Join us for our upcoming Campus Work Day on Saturday, September 12th at 8am. See Elder Steve Hanson for more details.



GOING ON AROUND NORTHKIRK



Confessions from a Small Group

Pastor Claire helped put together our Lenten small group back in February. All's I said was "Sure, we'll lead a group". What I didn't know was we were into a commitment that would lead to great personal growth and wonderful interactions. Our group really enjoyed "The Good and Beautiful God", our first study. But after Lent, our group wanted to keep going! I didn't expect that, but although we were trying to sell our home, we wanted to keep meeting also. So, we took about a month off and started on the second book of the series, "The Good and Beautiful Life". This was a little harder to finish, especially since we did it over the summer. We missed a week here and there, but on our first trip from San Marcos to Rancho, our group met for the last time to finish the study.

Personally, I didn't realize the connections I would make. I didn't realize the insight I would gain. I also didn't realize I would come to truly care so much about each and every member of our group. We had discussions that opened my eyes. I shared stuff that I thought was buried deep inside me. I have to say that the second book had its ups and downs. In both books, the author consistently points out "false narratives" versus "true narratives". Especially in the second book, I felt that a lot of the "false narratives" seemed absurd. I would say something like "are there really Christians out there like that?" and the group agreed that most Christians we know don't behave that way. But the final point of the second book was transformative for me. It stood out (and no, I am not going to give away the ending - read it yourself!).

Leading this group was a great adventure and a great experience. But the relationships I take away will live forever. Do yourself a favor. Join a group.

Daniel Beauvais

Youth Sunday

Youth Sunday was a success! We couldn't have done it without the help of our Sunday school teachers, Dean Collins, Saw Shein, and others. Thank you to the youth who were able to be a part of this year's Youth Sunday. We look forward to having another in the future.



MISSIONS AND OUTREACH



Welcome to “Missions Season” at Northkirk. What do I mean? We have numerous mission events – opportunities to reach out to the community – in the next few months.

First we will have two special offerings coming up. We have the Peacekeeping offering coming up in October, the offering will be taken on World Communion Sunday, October 4th. Then we will have the Christmas Joy offering over advent.

We have several events in the works. The first is Northkirk’s Craft Fair on October 3rd. We could use volunteers to help setup and to help at the Northkirk booth. We just need people to smile, be nice and talk to people (guess that disqualifies me!!). There is a sign up sheet at the back of the sanctuary, or contact Abby for more information. Next, we have our Trunk ‘or’ Treat on October 28th from 5-7:30pm. Please signup to be a “trunk” – that means you show up and handout candy from your car and see lots of cute kids in costumes. Don’t forget to bring your own chair or you can use one from NK. This is always a very popular and fun event. Sign-ups are on a clipboard in the back of the sanctuary. Then in December, we will be having our “Breakfast With Santa” on December 12th. Please contact Daniel Beauvais if you could help out.

Finally, we will be participating in Operation Christmas Child again this year. We will have a special speaker from OCC in Northkirk on November 8th, then have a final collection of the boxes on November 15th. Please strongly consider taking one or more shoeboxes, fill them, and return them to church. These boxes go all over the world to kids which brighten their day and introduce them to Jesus. It’s a win-win-win situation.

Blessings from Missions

Daniel Beauvais



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A



FALL

FAIR



OCTOBER 3 FROM 9AM-2PM

OVER 35 VENDORS

FREE ENTRY AND PARKING

ONE STOP SEASONAL SHOP

NORTHKIRK PARKING LOT

9101 19TH ST

RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91701



HEALTHY LIVING

FAITH

FELLOWSHIP

FITNESS

FOOD

Fun Ways to Experience Healthy Aging

We all know we are supposed to diet, exercise, lose weight, stop smoking and limit alcohol if we want to have a healthy lifestyle and live longer lives. But these habits aren't always easy to do or maintain and can be discouraging. Recently, two newspaper articles on health report some very fun ways to experience healthy aging and experience preventative medicine.

In the Personal Journal section of the Wall Street Journal dated August 17, 2026, the title says "How Museum Visits Can 'Sculpt' a Longer Life". A new study from University College London found that regular arts and cultural engagements slows biological aging at the same rate as physical exercise! People who engaged most frequently and across the widest variety of activities were roughly a year younger biologically than those who didn't. Arts engagement can be broad and can include attending museums, plays, concerts, a book reading, art opening, dance lessons and more. One woman challenged herself to attend one arts event a week and experienced increased shift in her energy and mood.

We know chronic stress can increase cortisol levels which can cause all kinds of health issues. Engaging with the arts counters that damage in ways that are now measurable at the biological level.

The author is Samantha Boardman, a clinical psychiatrist.

The Wall Street Journal on August 29, 2026 written by Heidi Mitchell reports travel can be used as preventative medicine. A growing body of research suggests travel may be a legitimate tool for improving mental health. Researchers say travel away from home exposes the brain to novel experiences that require greater mental engagement. The article says beneficial effects can kick in on just an overnight stay away from home as well as an extended trip. Rory Mulcahy, an associate professor at a university in Australia, says someone facing crisis-level stress has the most to gain from travel's resilience-building effects. The article went on with several studies showing the benefits of travel. The bottom line is book that weekend away and/or vacation.

Stay healthy and enjoy life!

Teri Smits





NORTHKIRK
CHURCH

Halloween

TRUNK
OR
TREAT

WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 28

9101 19TH ST.
RANCHO CUCAMONGA

5:00PM - 7:30PM

CANDY • FOOD TRUCKS
BOUNCE HOUSE • CUPCAKE DECORATING

WE NEED TRUNK VOLUNTEERS! CONTACT THE
OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION

Don't forget to wear your costume!

Northkirk Presbyterian MomCo

Richie's Night!

FUNDRAISER

Get together with friends and family
for some good ol' country cookin' for a cause
at Richie's Real American Diner!



Wednesday, September 23, 2026

8:00am – 9:00pm



20% of the sale of all meals at regular price
will benefit your organization!

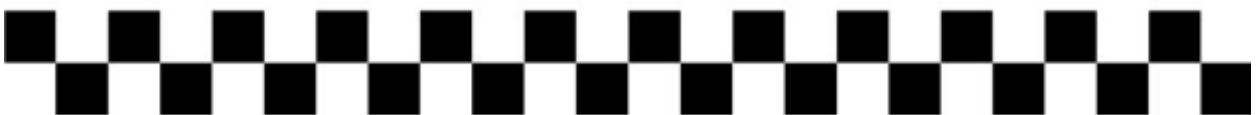
Not valid with any other discounts or coupons. Not valid on
the purchase of gift cards or alcoholic beverages.

BRING THIS FLYER TO THE EVENT AND PRESENT WHEN ORDERING!

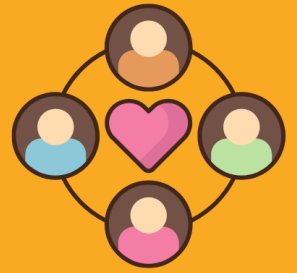


VICTORIA GARDENS

8039 Monet Avenue • Rancho Cucamonga, CA
909-899-8101



DEACON'S CORNER



The deacons have been creating blessing bags for Touch Ministries for the past year. These bags are full of small personal items are passed out to those in need. We would like to donate more often, but we need your help. There is a basket in Baird Hall to collect donations of these items. Deacons will then fill in the items needed each month to complete the bag. We have a goal of providing five bags for men and five bags for women each time we donate. If you are not able to bring items and would like to donate monetarily, please donate to the regular Deacon Fund. Thank you.

Dawn Collins, Deacon of the Month



JOIN US!



THE MOMCO
NORTHKIRK

9101 19th Street
Rancho Cucamonga 91701

**1st and 3rd
Wednesdays
from 9-11am**



 Website



 Instagram

*We have
childcare! :)*



SEPTEMBER EVENT CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30 Prayer Mtg. 9 am (Rm. 2) Worship Service 9:30 am	31	1 Prayer Part. 9 am	2 Men's Bible Study 7:30 am (Coco's) MomCo 9 am	3	4 Youth Group 7:30 pm	5
6 Prayer Mtg. 9 am (Rm. 2) Worship Service 9:30 am	7 Office Closed HAPPY LABOR DAY	8 Prayer Part. 9 am Committee Mtgs. 6:30 pm	9 Men's Bible Study 7:30 am (Pastor's Office)	10	11 Youth Group 7:30 pm	12 Campus Work Day 8 am 
13 Prayer Mtg. 9 am (Rm. 2) Homecoming Sunday Worship Service 9:30 am	14	15 Prayer Part. 9 am Session 6:30 pm (Baird Hall)	16 Men's Bible Study 7:30 am (Pastor's Office) MomCo 9 am	17	18 Youth Group 7:30 pm	19
20 Prayer Mtg. 9 am (Rm. 2) Worship Service 9:30 am	21	22 Prayer Part. 9 am Deacons 6:30 pm (rm. 5)	23 Men's Bible Study 7:30 am (Pastor's Office) Richie's MomCo Fundraiser (All Day)	24 Caring Crafters 2 pm (rm. 2)	25 Youth Group 7:30 pm	26
27 Prayer Mtg. 9 am (Rm. 2) Worship Service 9:30 am	28	29 Prayer Part. 9 am	30 Men's Bible Study 7:30 am (Pastor's Office)	1	2 Youth Group 7:30 pm	3 Craft Fair 9 am

Prayer Partners Tuesdays, 9 am, Mary Lee's home. Call Mary Lee with prayer requests or to be part of the group.

Bible Study Wednesdays, 7:30 am, Pastor's Office, Contact Terry Switzer.

Prayer Meeting Sundays, 9 am, Room 2.

3D Study Sundays, 11 am, Contact Claire Schlegel 909-240-8049 *On Break*



Happy Birthday!

Marion Mildon	9/04
Glen Gonzales	9/06
Emily Scholz	9/20
Paula Emick	9/23
Carol Entler	9/24
David Campbell	9/26
Eric Michalski	9/28

Happy Anniversary!

Emily & Bill Scholz	9/20
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Northkirk is collecting **Nonperishable Goods** for T.O.U.C.H. Ministries in Ontario. T.O.U.C.H. is an outreach based ministry that reaches the homeless and needy throughout the Inland Empire **You can also drop off grocery gift cards in the Northkirk office.**

Northkirk Presbyterian Church

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 Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91701
 (909)989-4919
[Www.northkirk.org](http://www.northkirk.org)
northkirkoffice@northkirk.org

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Office Manager & Grapevine Editor Music Director	Abby Thomas northkirkoffice@northkirk.org Saw Shein sawmoonlight@yahoo.com
Accompanist	Harold Willome hwillome@northkirk.org

“Living out God’s Love as we gather together and reach out.”

September Prayer Calendar

30 Spread of the Gospel	31 Joyce Brand	1 Mary S. Brown	2 Debbie Bruce	3 Allison Burgess	4 Nona Cabral	5 Unity
6 God’s Glory	7 David Campbell	8 Ronn & Thelma Campbell	9 Clonts Family	10 Dawn & Dean Collins	11 Catherine Crook	12 Hope & Courage
13 Peace & Comfort	14 Violet De Leon	15 Cherry Dobbs	16 Tom & Paula Emick	17 Carol Entler	18 Escalera Family	19 Love & Compassion
20 Guidance & Direction	21 Yen Evans	22 Jose & Susan Fernandez	23 Cynthia Freymueller	24 Goddard Family	25 Glen & Grace Gonzales	26 Growth & Transformation
27 Protection	28 Ed Hambly	29 Steve & Kathi Hanson	30 Loretta Hauk	1 Sharon Hayden	2 Anu & Biju Jacob	3 Wisdom

Deacon of the Month:
 Dawn Collins